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2009

Digital Commons Annual Report: Year One 2008-2009

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UtahStateUniversity

DigitalCommons@USU

<http://digitalcommons.usu.edu>

Institutional Repository
First Year Review
October 27, 2008 - October 31, 2009

Prepared by Heather Leary



Overview

On October 27, 2008 the Merrill-Cazier Library at Utah State University launched DigitalCommons@USU (<http://digitalcommons.usu.edu>). This repository is the University's first institutional repository (IR) and serves the entire USU campus. It provides open access to scholarly works, research, reports, publications, and courses produced by Utah State University faculty, staff, students, and others. Coordinated by the Merrill-Cazier Library, USU's digital repository joins other universities worldwide in the ongoing development of new knowledge. USU's Digital Commons is hosted by The Berkeley Electronic Press (bepress).

Participating Departments and Groups

The initial collections brought online included faculty publications in the Department of Instructional Technology & Learning Sciences, the Marginalia newsletter (sponsored by the Friends of the Library) and Government Documents Regional Depository in the Merrill-Cazier Library, and graduate theses and dissertations (mandatory campus wide as of March 2008). Shortly after launching the site the Department of Animal, Dairy, and Veterinary Sciences and the Department of Psychology expressed interest and volunteered to deposit faculty publications in the repository. The Quinney Natural Resources Library and ADVANCE also expressed interest in creating discipline specific libraries where bibliographic information has been deposited in their respective research areas. The Agricultural Experiment Station began its presence in the Digital Commons by working with the Merrill-Cazier Library to digitize back issues of their journal, Utah Science.

Other departments and discipline specific groups that have works in in the Digital Commons include Undergraduate Honors Theses, the Intermountain Journal of Religious Studies, and USU's OpenCourseWare.

Departments and discipline specific groups that are queued for adding works include the College of Business, Canyonlands Research Center, USU Press, College of Engineering, School of Teacher Education and Leadership, Department of Nutrition and Food Science, USU Provost's Office, and the Department of Wildland Resources and Ecology.

Documents in the Digital Commons

Below is a list of document types included in the digital commons:

- Articles
- Books
- Book chapters
- OpenCourseWare courses
- Images
- Presentations
- Research reports
- Author web pages
- Government documents
- Subject specific bibliographies
- Graduate theses & dissertations
- Undergraduate honors theses

- Videos
- Online Journals
- K12 teacher PD curriculum
- Conference proceedings

New Features

Within this first year three features were added to the Digital Commons that were not initially part of the setup: Author Selected Works pages, Google Analytics, and Conference software. Selected Works pages are individual web pages for faculty and doctoral students at USU; they provide them a professional online presence. Google Analytics was added in February 2009 and the conference software was first used in June 2009 by the North American Forest Ecology Workshop.

Exposure

The site has been registered with the following:

- Networked Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations (NDLTD)
 - <http://www.ndltd.org>
- Registry of Open Access Repositories (ROAR)
 - <http://roar.eprints.org>
- The Directory of Open Access Repositories (OpendOAR)
 - <http://www.opendoar.org>
- Open Archives Initiative
 - <http://openarchives.org>
- OCLC-WorldCat
 - <http://oaister.org>
- The University of Illinois OAI-PMH Data Provider Registry
 - <http://gita.grainger.uiuc.edu/registry/details.asp?id=2777>

Data and Usage

As of October 31, 2009 DigitalCommons@USU had 4,185 documents/works in the repository, with 23,456 downloads, and 28 Selected Works pages. Visits to the site and full-text downloads have come from 122 countries.

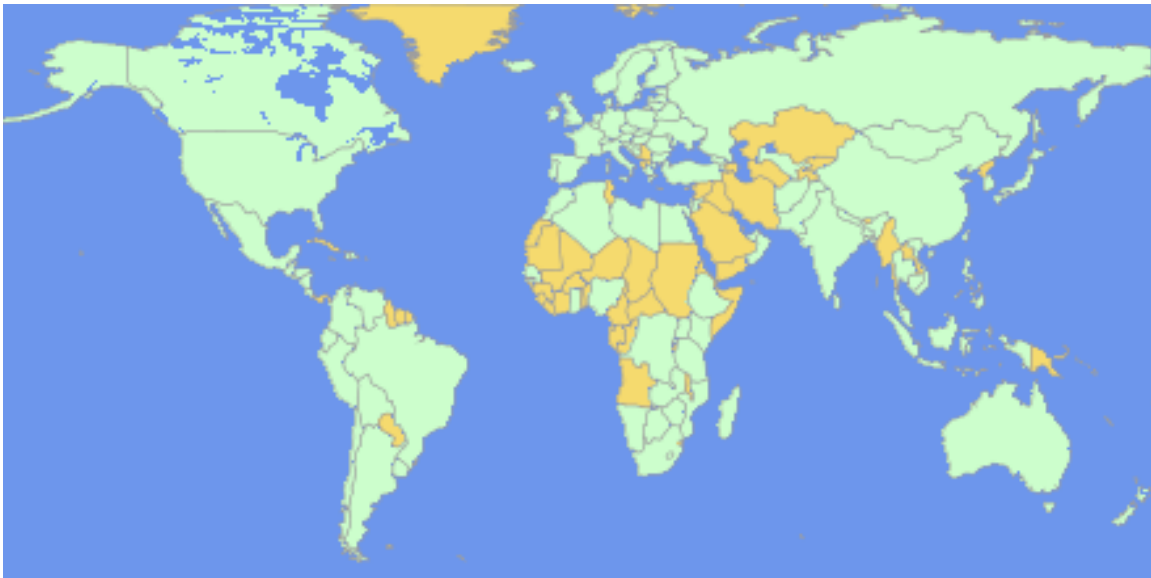


Figure 1. World map showing countries (in green) that have visits and/or full-text downloads.

Outside the United States, the top five countries with the highest visits/downloads are the United Kingdom, Canada, India, Australia, and China. The top five entry points come from first Google, Google Scholar, Yahoo, Bing, and Google UK. According to Google Analytics (which began in February 2009), 51% of the traffic to the site comes from search engines, with 32% from referring sites, and 17% direct traffic.

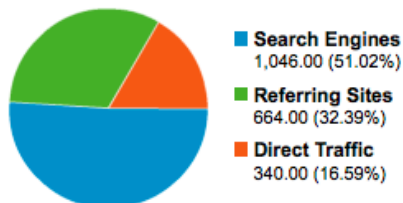


Figure 2. Entry points for patrons to the Digital Commons.

The top referring sites are:

1. Merrill-Cazier Library (library.usu.edu)
2. Utah State University (usu.edu)
3. Bepress (digitalcommons.bepress.com)
4. Scientific Commons (en.scientificcommons.org)
5. Facebook (facebook.com)
6. USU College of Natural Resources (cnr.usu.edu)

There are 13 communities with one to four collections within them, 2 journals, and 2 conferences found on the site. Student input is from the electronic theses and dissertations: 487 graduate and 25 undergraduate. Teaching input is found through an archive of 86 OpenCourseWare courses. The top five most used collections include the Electronic Theses and Dissertations, U.S. Government Documents Regional Depository, Aspen

Bibliography, ITLS Faculty Publications, and the Undergraduate Honors Theses.

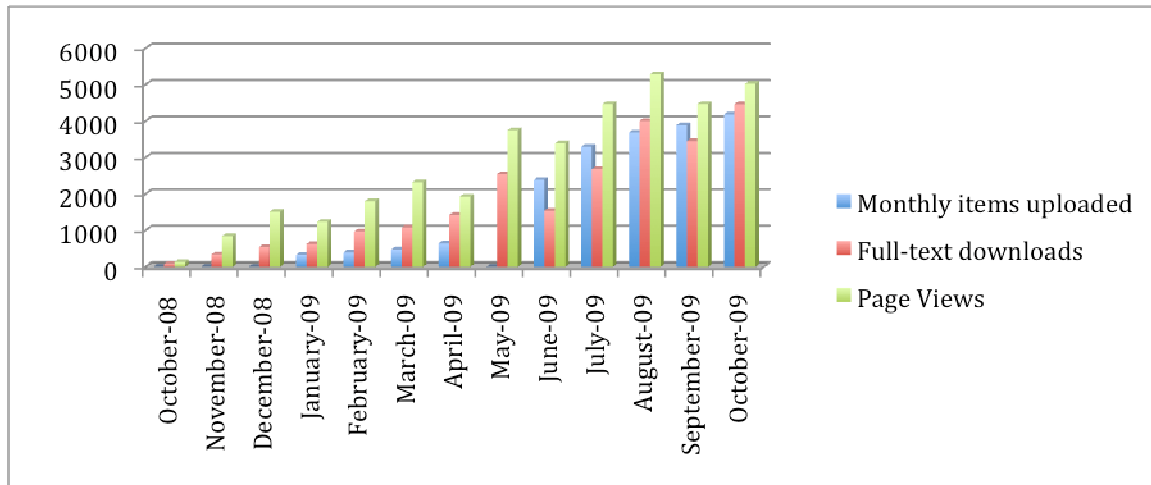


Figure 3. Monthly number of items uploaded, full-text downloads, and page views.

Marketing

To market and advertise the existence and benefits of using DigitalCommons@USU, the Library kicked off the announcement of the Digital Commons in conjunction with the USU Provost's Lecture series speaker David Shulenburg (Vice-president for Academic Affairs at the National Association of State Universities and Land-grant Colleges). The Digital Commons has been fully supported from the upper administration and college Deans from the beginning. The Library Dean worked hard to acquire buy-in from these groups before launching into marketing to the faculty. The Library provided handouts for faculty and departments with basic information on the Digital Commons. These generated many visits to department to spend more time talking with faculty about the site.

IR Day

As part of the initial contract with bepress, USU agreed to host an Institutional Repository conference. Planning for this conference began in late spring 2009 and the conference was held on September 30, 2009 at Utah State University. Seventy-three people registered for the conference and 65 attended. The participants came from Utah (USU, SUU, UVU, BYU, UofU, SLCC, UALC, Weber, Utah Division of State History, Family Search), Illinois, Texas, Idaho, California, Colorado, Arkansas, Washington, Oregon, Massachusetts, and Maryland. The Berkeley Electronic Press, Utah State University, and the Utah Academic Library Consortium financially supported the conference. The daylong event included a keynote speaker, Sayeed Choudhury, and various panel discussions. Attendees gave positive feedback on the event. Archive of the conference: <http://digitalcommons.usu.edu/irday/>.

Successes

Obtaining support from USU's President, Provost, and college Deans has been highly successful for marketing purposes. Collaborative and partnering opportunities have been fruitful (ETDs with the Graduate School, Quinney Library, OpenCourseWare) for exposure and populating the Digital Commons. We have been successful in having people and departments contact us before we go to them. This has happened with the Honors program (undergraduate honors theses) and some journal editors on campus. IR Day was also a successful event. The volume of citations uploaded has been highly successful (mainly from Aspen Bibliography). Interest and use in Selected Works pages has also been successful. The Library Dean mandated all publishing faculty and staff have and maintain a page, so training for these individuals was conducted.

Challenges

The challenges faced in the initial year have been workflows for tracking and uploading content. This has been due to limited staff, copyright clearance, and figuring out the best workflow for tracking everything in the process. Time and quantity of interest has also been a challenge. It has been wonderful to have so much interest, but with the limitations noted above uploading of faculty publications has been slower than anticipated.

Looking Ahead

Activities for the second year:

- Incorporating the USU Press
- Collection Development Policy
- Streamlining workflow
- More marketing
- Incorporating new features from updates to the software (rss widgets, embedded slide shows)
- Auto populating from ISI
- More journals (at least 2)
- College of Business integration through Digital Measures
- More hosted conferences (at least 2)
- Discipline specific repositories (at least 3)

Staff

Staff working on the Digital Commons includes:

- One full-time employee
- Assistance by the Digital Initiatives Head and Assistant
- One dedicated student with access to four more students as needed